

Biography

Colonel John B. O'Dowd

Commander and District Engineer



Colonel John B. O'Dowd assumed command of the Afghanistan Engineer District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in July 2004. The Afghanistan District is responsible for a comprehensive infrastructure program for the reception and training of recruits, and subsequent stabilization of up to 70,000 soldiers of the Afghanistan National Army. The program includes construction, rehabilitation and refurbishment of barracks, dining facilities, administration centers, clinics, motor pools, multipurpose training ranges, and support facilities. It also includes construction of a military hospital, military academy, entrance processing station, and training center. The District is also building new facilities for US Forces in Afghanistan and provides technical and mentoring support to USAID and other federal agencies including the Department of Defense.

In addition to serving as commander of the District, O'Dowd is also the staff engineer for Combined Force Command-Afghanistan. In this role he oversees all engineering activity for the military and the DoD including construction of roads, bridges and forward operating bases.

Prior to his position in Afghanistan, O'Dowd was the commander of the New York District where he oversaw the Corps' water resource development, navigation, and regulatory activities in northeastern New Jersey, eastern and south-central New York State, including New York Harbor and Long Island, and parts of Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

Colonel O'Dowd has served in numerous command and staff positions during his career including command of the 30th Engineer Battalion (Topographic) at Fort Bragg. He served as the Executive Officer for the Engineer Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Republic of Korea. He was assigned as the Operations Officer (S-3) for the 20th Engineer Brigade (Combat) (Airborne Corps) during Operation "Uphold Democracy" in Haiti and also served as the Executive Officer, 30th Engineer Battalion (Topographic).

His early assignments include Operations Officer (S-3) for the 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Airborne) and Commander of C Company, 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Airborne) at Fort Bragg where he participated in numerous operations in Central America. He has also served as the Deputy Director of Public Works at Fort Bragg and as an Associate Professor of Environmental Engineering at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Colonel O'Dowd's military awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (with four Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Master Parachutist Badge.

He was commissioned into the Army after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy, West Point in 1978. He earned a masters degree in Environmental Engineering from The Johns Hopkins University in 1989. His military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic and Advance Course, the United States Army Command and General Staff College and the Army War College.